

Draft article for inclusion in the next newsletter.

HO RM History

The long awaited history of our World War 2 R.A.N. Radio Mechanics is now available for purchase. This 160 page book is a word picture of what it was like to be a young Navy trainee learning about the then highly secret technology that we now know as Radar, and related mysteries of wireless transmission and reception.

The book is intended primarily as a guide to the families and descendants of these R.A.N. Radio Mechanics, to help these former learn about the occasionally dangerous, sometimes fascinating and often quite mundane experiences of their forebears, during the years that Australia faced the Japanese aggression. As well, it will serve as an historical record of who these men were by name, the training they were given, and the subsequent responsibilities they assumed.

Of the 360 approximately who were selected and trained in the period late 1941 through to August 1945, 21 personal stories, which the author has called cameos, feature in the book. With only occasional minor amendments, the text of every cameo is precisely as it has been given to the book. This is just as important as the story each tells.

In support of the chapter on cameos, there is a chapter listing the names of all known HO RMs, with facts such as dates joined and demobbed, service numbers, rank at demob and ships in which served. There is further supporting information in chapters on the training course at Melbourne Technical College (now R.M.I.T.), The Bailey Boys, Ships and establishments in which HO RMs served, and a glossary of terms and navy jargon. Gratuitous copies of the book are being sent to public institutions such as the National Library, The University of Sydney Library, the State Library of NSW, the NSW Parliamentary Library, the Australian War Memorial, R.M.I.T., The Naval Historical Society, Ballina Maritime Museum, Polly Woodside Maritime Museum and others.

Cost per copy is \$22-00 which includes handling and postage. To order copies, send a cheque made payable to at 5 Almond Court, Vale Park SA 5081